

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application:

IN THE CLAIMS

1-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method for performing predictive data analysis using a central server, said method comprising:

collecting failure analysis data in individual ones of a plurality of distributed devices in which each of the distributed devices uses a predictive failure analysis algorithm;

receiving said failure analysis data at the central server from a network coupled to each device of said plurality of distributed devices; analyzing said failure analysis data received from said each device at the central server; and

in response to the analysis, providing an updated predictive failure analysis algorithm from the central server to the distributed devices, wherein the updated predictive failure analysis algorithm is provided to the plurality of distributed devices in the form of a first microcode that is provided from the central server to the plurality of devices to be used instead of a second microcode previously used by the plurality of devices, wherein execution of the first microcode results in the updated predictive failure analysis algorithm using different tolerances of certain error events when estimating an impending failure.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said updated predictive failure analysis algorithm is transmitted to said device via said network.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said updated predictive failure analysis algorithm is used to improve at least one of design and manufacturing for future devices.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said updated predictive failure analysis algorithm provides an indication of operating lifespan of said plurality of distributed devices.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said each device is coupled to said network via an intermediary software agent installed on a local server.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein said intermediary software agent is installed on a local server.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said local server includes a database arranged for storing said failure analysis data, said local server being arranged for periodically uploading said failure analysis data to a manufacturer's server.

25-44. (Canceled).